

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 019584
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00
EUR-12 PM-04 SP-02 /059 R

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NEA:ARDA
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-----280306Z 079059 /72R-61

O R 280153Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 019584

FOR AMBASSADOR/CHARGE FROM ATHERTON AND SCHAUFLELE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN CONCERN OVER SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN
ETHIOPIA

REF: A. CAIRO 1262 B. STATE 015006 C. STATE 014991

1 BELIEVE REF B, WHICH IS RPT OF STATE 08923 SENT KHARTOUM
ADDRESSES EGYPTIAN CONCERN EXPRESSED IN PARA 1 REF A. YOU
MAY DRAW UPON IT AND FOLLOWING PARAS 2-5, AS WELL AS REF C,
IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH FAHMY.

2. REGARDING PARA 2, REF A, WE HAVE HAD NO REPORTS, EVEN
FROM SUDANESE, THAT ANYTHING BUT LIBYAN-SUPPLIED, SOVIET-
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ORIGIN WEAPONS ARE GOING TO THE ANSARS IN ETHIOPIA, AND WE
DOUBT SERIOUSLY THAT ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERN-
MENT (EPMG) WOULD PART WITH ANY OF ITS AMERICAN ARMS, OF
WHICH IT ALWAYS SAYS IT IS GETTING TOO FEW, IN FAVOR OF
THE ANSARS.

3. EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT OF 1953 SPECIFIES THE USE TO WHICH

US-SUPPLIED MILITARY EQUIPMENT CAN BE PUT BY ETHIOPIAN MILITARY. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE RESTRICTIONS THEREIN, WHICH WOULD PRECLUDE TRANSFER OF EQUIPMENT TO

ANSARS, HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED BY EPMG. END-USE CHECKS HAVE NOT UNCOVERED ANY EVASION. EPMG HAS IN THE PAST, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT, SOUGHT OUR AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER EXCESS WEAPONS FROM ITS REGULAR DEFENSE FORCES TO SUCH UNITS AS THE TERRITORIAL ARMY. LATEST SUCH REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION WAS MADE IN 1975. SEPARATE AGREEMENTS ARE NEGOTIATED ON EACH SUCH TRANSFER WHICH SPECIFY THAT THE 1953 EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT STILL APPLIES TO TRANSFERRED WEAPONS, AND THESE AGREEMENTS CONSTITUTE MAAG AUTHORITY TO MAKE PERIODIC CHECKS ON END-USE.

4. WHILE ABOVE SYSTEM IS NOT FOOLPROOF, OUR EXPERIENCE WITH IT AND WITH EPMG MAKES IT UNLIKELY IN OUR ESTIMATION THAT US-SUPPLIED WEAPONS ARE BEING FURNISHED ANSARS. EVEN MORE CONVINCING ARE THE CIRCUMSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST SUCH A DEVELOPMENT: EPMG SHORTAGE OF WEAPONS AS REFLECTED IN THEIR DEMANDS TO US, ITS PREOCCUPATION WITH ITS OWN MILITARY PROBLEMS (ERITREA, DJIBOUTI, GENERAL DISSIDENCE, SOMALI THREAT, ESTABLISHING VILLAGE MILITIAS), AMPLE RESOURCES OF LIBYANS, ETC. AS STATED IN REF B, EPMG PROBABLY IS ALLOWING LIBYAN-SUPPLIED ARMS TO REACH ANSARS IN ETHIOPIA, BUT EPMG PROVISION OF U.S. ARMS TO THEM IS MOST UNLIKELY.

5. WE WILL SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO BOTH
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SUDANESE AND ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENTS OUR CONCERN OVER THE DETERIORATION IN THEIR RELATIONS AND OUR HOPE THEY CAN NOW BOTH BE MORE CONCILIATORY, PARTICULARLY IN THE REALM OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS, AND CAREFUL IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH EACH OTHER'S EXILE COMMUNITIES.

6. FOR KHARTOUM AND ADDIS ABABA: YOU SHOULD TAKE PARA 5 FOR ACTION.

7. FOR CAIRO: EMBASSY CAIRO MAY WISH ENLIST HELP OF GOE IN MAKING THESE POINTS TO SUDAN.

8. EMBASSY ADDIS COMMENTS INVITED ON PARAS 2-4.
VANCE

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